

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday**



November 3, 2024

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are
welcome here!"**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

O Rest in the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

Lighting the Community Candles

We invite you to use this time for silent prayer
and reflection as we prepare for worship.

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: We gather, called to live out a radical love that transforms us
and the world.

**All: May we open our hearts to love fully, as God loves us,
without limit or condition.**

One: Jesus teaches us that love of God and love of neighbor are
inseparable.

**All: We seek a faith that is real and rooted in action, in the care
and dignity of all.**

One: In simplicity, we return to what matters most: love, kindness, and
compassion.

**All: Help us, God, to let go of what divides and complicates, to
focus on what unites and heals.**

One: May our love ripple outward, healing our communities and
creating new paths to justice.

**All: Let us embrace love as our guiding purpose, and live boldly
as witnesses to God's grace.**

One: Come, let us worship with hearts ready to be transformed by
love.

**All: We come to offer our lives, that we might live as a
community of love and peace.**

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, You welcome us with open arms and invite us to be part of Your kingdom. Help us to embrace Your love with childlike wonder, trusting in Your grace and mercy. Forgive us when we close ourselves off to others, and when we fail to see the dignity and worth of each person. Open our hearts to love as You love, without limits or conditions. May we be instruments of Your peace and ambassadors of Your inclusive kingdom, where all are welcomed and cherished. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** NCH #43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Tune: BEECHER

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture

Ruth 1:1-18 Hebrew Bible page 241

Hebrews 9:11-14 NT Bible page 223

Mark 12:28-34

Children's Message

You Want What They Want

Pastor Walt

Word In Music

Shine Like the Sun Traditional Scottish Tune

Arr. by K. E. Black

There's a light that lights the darkness, and the world cannot contain it and the world cannot explain it.

It is the love of God's creation.

There's a love that flows within us, and the world cannot create it, and the world cannot negate it.

It is the love of God's salvation; and it shines like the sun.

There are saints who light the darkness, and the world cannot contain them, for the love of God sustains them.

And they will never be forgotten.

We are blest to have them with us, and we praise the God who made them.

There is no way to repay them, and so we simply do applaud them as they shine like the sun.

Glory be to our Creator! Glory to the Holy One! Glory to Christ our Savior, the Lord of light, the King of love.

See him shine like the sun.

There's a light that lights the darkness, and the world cannot contain it and the world cannot explain it.

It is the love of God's creation.

There's a love that flows within us, and the world cannot create it, and the world cannot negate it.

It is the love of God's salvation; and it shines like the sun. Glory be to our Creator! Glory to the Holy One! Glory to Christ our Savior, the Lord of light, the King of love.

See him shine like the sun. They will shine like the sun.

Message

Simple Not Easy

Pastor Walt

Response

Necrology

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Offertory

One: Let us give, as each is able, according to the blessings that God has given each of us.

***Doxology** NCH #780

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Hymn (Red Hymnal) #260 (Remain Seated) Through Love To Light

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

One: The Holy Living God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, to you be all praise and glory. We give you thanks with all your creatures: With Brother Sun who gives us your light, with Sister Moon and the stars of night, with Brother Wind, and Sister Water and Mother Earth who feeds and keeps us.

We thank you Lord of heaven and earth for revealing your way to the lowly and the least. For your coming in the crown of all creation, Jesus, your Son, who shares with us his easy yoke, and teaches us his gentle humility.

We thank you, Most High, because in him the poor hear good news, and the captives are set free.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at supper with his friends. He took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to them and said: "Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks and passed the cup, saying: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink together, do this for the remembrance of me."

All-powerful, most holy, most high God as we remember the suffering and death of your Son; his resurrection and ascension to your right hand and we praise you and we bless you.

We pray that you will send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son so that we may become One Body and give you perfect praise.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, may we sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

May we dwell with you forever.

And together, we give you glory joining our voices with all of our ancestors and loved ones throughout the ages.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, all loving God, now, and always, and forever. **All: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, we sing together:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sharing The Gifts

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

We invite you to come forward via the center aisle, as directed by the ushers, to receive communion. ALL are welcome at this table.

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we thank You for the gift of this sacred meal, which unites us with Christ and with our brothers and sisters around the world. In this act of communion, may we be reminded of Your boundless love that knows no borders and Your kingdom that welcomes all. Strengthen us to live as ambassadors of Your inclusive grace, reaching out to the forgotten, the marginalized, and the vulnerable. May the nourishment we receive here empower us to spread Your peace and to build a world where love reigns. Amen.

Sending Out

***Hymn NCH #588** Let Justice Flow Like Streams Tune: ST. THOMAS

Benediction

Postlude For All the Saints "Sine nomine" William W. How

(Stay and enjoy OR head right on over for coffee and treats!)

The altar flowers are given by Sonya & Mark Porter in loving memory of their daughter Annika Faith Porter, and their parents Ruth and Robert Malcolm and Robert and Kay Porter.

Greeter: Helen Goss

Ushers: Fred Starkey & Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Ken Schiller

Welcome to First Church of Christ! If you are visiting with us in person today, please note that there are two fire exits at the rear of the sanctuary and one through the back of the church through the kitchen. Additionally, there are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the entrance where you entered and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.

We hope you will join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better.

Our November Newsletter is chock full of good stuff and important dates! You'll definitely want to check it out. You'll find it online by going to our website at:

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/November2024.pdf>

(And let us know if you don't have online access - we can still mail a physical copy to you!)

We will be selling frozen pans of blueberry crisp after worship in the Fellowship Hall for \$20.00 a pan. We ask that you use only Teflon or plastic coated spatulas when cutting the pans of warmed crisp as we would like the pans back undamaged.

Additionally, we have (5) cup bags of frozen Wyman blueberries for sale for \$5.00 each.

Proceeds will benefit the final outcome of the fair fundraiser.

Evelyn Porter is designated as The Coordinator of the Diaconates' Ministry of Greeting. If you would like her to send a card from the church to someone who is ill, grieving, celebrating, or who just needs a "pick-me-up" note, please call her at 603-356-2881 or send her an email at hambru35@yahoo.com.

Week of Activities:

Today: Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;

Crafty Hands Workshop 6:30-8:00pm

Tuesday: Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm;

Thursday: WIC Program 9:30am – 2:30pm;

Food Pantry 12:30-2:45pm;

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3pm;

Bell Choir Rehearsal 4pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Worship Celebration 10am**

Mission Corner:

- **November-December Noisy Offering will go to Vaughan Non-Essential Food program.** This program is designed to assist seniors with everyday items.
- The 4th Quarter **Mission collection is for the Jen's Friends. The Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food or monetary gifts.** The pantry hours are shown in our *Week of Activities*. Checks can be made payable to: *Vaughan Community Service, Inc.* and placed in the collection plate.

Church Address and Information

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2521 White Mountain Highway
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Pastor: The Reverend Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir/Handbell Director: Anne Polak

Church Administrator/Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director: Heather Ouellette

Vaughan Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Pastor Walt's Phone: 603-356-2324 (Press 2)

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

Pastor Walt's Email: pastor@firstchurchnc.com

Church Office Email: churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com

Church Website: www.firstchurchnc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh



To make giving even easier for those who don't carry cash or use checks, we've started using QR Code, in the bulletin. Just scan the code with your phone like you would in a restaurant!